

Farmlands

The viability of land in long-term agricultural use, and the importance of individual farms, are reflected in farmland protection legislation in the State of Washington. The material here provides information about the location of potentially affected farmlands for a corridor-level environmental review.

DEIS Maps

For the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and its accompanying documents (i.e., the “Draft Farmlands Expertise Report,” information on farmlands was compiled and mapped using a geographic information system (GIS). “[Farmlands in the Study Area](#),” listed under DEIS Maps, is the result. The farmlands are identified in green. None of the DEIS and RS/GIS maps makes any distinction between prime farmland, unique farmland, and farmland of statewide or local importance.

The other map in the DEIS Expertise report, “[Alternative 3 Projects w/Farmlands](#),” contains the same information, with Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the farmlands map.

RS/GIS Maps

The map listed under RS/GIS Maps – “[Farmlands in the Study Area](#)” – was generated using automated classification of the imagery based on spectral signatures and texture, supplemented by interpretation of aerial photography. The resulting data on farmlands were overlain onto a standard map-template that has hillshaded topography, major roads, lakes, places, and other features. The farmlands are identified in green.

The other map listed under RS/GIS Maps, “[Alternative 3 Projects w/Farmlands](#),” shows Alternative 3 projects (both highway and transit) overlain onto the farmlands map.